

## **Mr. Taboo**

A comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D Steinhoff, copyright 10.18.14

Comedy idea based on something observed in "The Nanny" Episode #2, 11.10.93, "Smoke Gets In Your Lies," in which the Frannie Fine character uses the word "Fine!" in conversation as if oblivious to having gone through life with that word as her last name. The idea here would be a group of friends who would instead have the more likely stigmas (not unlike stuttering) one might connect with their going through life with certain words as their last name. Ordinarily, the stigmas don't make a whole lot of difference - e.g., the Frannie Fine character might have used a work-around word, such as, "Great!" However, in this idea, the one conversation occurs that makes it incredibly difficult for this particular group of friends to make headway, which is made more tense and funny by highly unlikely last names, new characters coming and going into their conversation to increase more names, and most of all, the imperative that the information come out in time. This idea has potential as a metaphor for Congressmen having difficulty expressing what should be a very simple idea, that Mitch McConnell, in announcing an agenda to thwart Obama no matter what the public cost, has betrayed Americans in this, basically being a dangerous horse's ass supported by deep pockets who would let the world end from climate change denial for their own short term profit. The characters keep getting caught on simple words, which they get - beginning with when one explained why he had difficulty asking the valet for his, for his - he can't say the word "car" because "Carr" is his last name. They then all laugh and say they have the same thing with their last names. So whenever one is speaking and they get caught on a word, the others guess the missing word to be that person's last name- and they're almost invariably correct. Occasionally the pause isn't for this reason, the person is caught on a word because he's trying to think, followed a moment later by him blurting out an entire shocking sentence unimpeded by any inhibition. So step by step, through various word obstacles, like contestants on a game show, they spit out the basic taboo idea that no one seems able to say.

**THE END**